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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC General Information on Volkspolizei Bereitschaften and Schools

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2d VP Bereitschaft (Inf) in Land Thuringia

1. In September 1950, the 2d VP Bereitschaft (Inf) was located in the Kradschuetzen Kaserne on Thamsbrueckerstrasse in the northern sector of Langensalza. It numbered 950 to 1,000 police and was organized into a headquarters, three Kommandos of four Abteilungen each, and one Sonderabteilung which was a mortar unit.
2. The officers of the 2d VP Bereitschaft included VP-Oberrat Bitterlich, (fnu), commanding officer, ex-captain of the German Air Force; VP-Oberrat Klassen, (fnu), PK officer; VP Oberrat Pushkin, (fnu), Soviet control officer; VP-Rat Pieske, (fnu), director of training; VP-Oberkommissar Horst Koehler, operations officer; VP-Oberkommissar Grimm, (fnu), administrative officer; VP-Kommissar Helmut Guenther, personnel officer; VP-Rat Paul Fischer, SED party secretary; VP-Kommissar Bauer, (fnu), FDJ secretary; VP-Rat Strugala, (fnu), liaison officer; and VP Overkommissar Zeth, (fnu), commanding officer of 1st Kommando.
3. The armament of the Bereitschaft consisted of sufficient German hand weapons to equip about one and one-half Kommandos, two 80-mm mortars, and one 150-mm mortar. Boxes with infantry rifles were trucked in at night in late July 1950. The rifles were said to have magazines which held ten cartridges, and telescopic sights, and would be issued to all personnel of the VP Bereitschaft.

6th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) in Land Thuringia

4. In September 1950, the 6th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) was quartered at 1 Knochenhauerstrasse, Meiningen, and had a personnel strength of about 1,000 men. It was organized into the Stabskommando, with motor transport and signal section; three Kommandos; and one Sonderabteilung, which was a mortar unit.
5. The officers of the Bereitschaft included VP-Oberkommissar Becker, (fmu), operations officer; VP-Rat Reinhardt, (fmu), liaison officer; VP-Rat Koch, (fmu), commanding officer of 1st Kommando; and VP-Oberkommissar Mangold, (fmu), PK officer. The 6th VP Bereitschaft was recently issued Soviet carbines and submachine guns.

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VP School in Pirna, Land Saxony

6. In October 1950, a VP school was stationed in Pirna, in the Sonnenstein Castle which had formerly housed a sanatorium and, later, an Adolf Hitler school. The school had a personnel strength of about 1,300 police and consisted of one school cadre company, one radio platoon, and ten companies, eight of which were signal companies and the two others engineer companies. Its key officers were VP Inspekteur Wels, (fnu), school commandant, former officer and wearer of the Knight's Cross; VP-Inspekteur Reimann, (fnu), director of training; VP-Oberrat Mohr, (fnu), PK-officer; and VP-Oberrat Bartel, (fnu), personnel officer. The VP school had sufficient small arms to equip about five companies.

8th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) in Land Saxony

7. In July 1950, the 8th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) was located in the former Flak Kaserne at 32 Aoussere Freibergstrasse, Frankenberg. It numbered about 1,000 police and was made up of the headquarters, three Kommandos, and one Sonder-abteilung which was a mortar unit.
8. The key personnel of the Bereitschaft were VP-Oberrat Eger, (fnu), commanding officer; VP-Oberrat Saupe, (fnu), PK officer; VP-Oberkommissar Weber, (fnu), operations officer; VP-Oberkommissar Pischke, (fnu), administrative officer; and VP-Kommissar Vogel, (fnu), personnel officer.
9. The equipment included 30 model 41 light machine guns, 30 model 08 heavy machine guns, 180 model 41 submachine guns, 75 rapid-fire rifles issued in March 1950, 45 new assault rifles, 4 heavy 80-mm mortars and an unidentified number of model 98-K carbines.

PK School in Torgau, Land Saxony-Anhalt

10. On 23 September 1950, the PK (polit-culture) school of the Volkspolizei was located in the Kavallerie Kaserne on Domnitzscherstrasse, Torgau. It had a personnel of about 1,300 and consisted of the school headquarters and 10 companies.
11. The officers on the staff of the school included VP-Inspekteur Dickel, (fnu), school commandant, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War; VP-Inspekteur Schwab, (fnu), PK officer, who lived in the U.S.S.R. for 14 years; VP-Inspekteur Martinenko, (fnu), Soviet liaison officer; VP-Inspekteur Schwarz, (fnu), director of training, a former field officer of the German Army; VP-Oberrat Decke, (fnu), administrative officer; VP-Kommandeur Herold, (fnu), personnel officer; VP-Oberrat Plenk, (fnu), SED party officer; and VP-Kommissar Eisen-schmidt, (fnu), PDJ officer. The PK school was equipped with small arms for about 600 men.

6th VP Bereitschaft (Armd) in Land Saxony-Anhalt

12. On 15 August 1950, the 6th VP Bereitschaft (Armd) was stationed in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Burg-waldfrieden, and numbered 1,000 police. The unit was organized into a headquarters, the 1st Kommando consisting of radio personnel, the 2d Kommando of gunners, the 3d Kommando of loaders and section chiefs, and the 4th Kommando of technical personnel and drivers. Each Kommando was organized into four Abteilungen.
13. The officers of the 6th VP Bereitschaft included VP-Oberrat Kewel, (fnu), commanding officer; VP-Rat Isensee, (fnu), PK-officer; VP-Rat Brandis, (fnu), director of training; VP-Rat Adam, (fnu), operations officer; VP-Rat Neumann, (fnu), liaison officer; VP-Oberkommissar Jalla, (fnu), commanding officer of

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2d Kommando; VP-Oberkommissar Schroeder, (fnu), commanding officer of 3d Kommando; and VP-Oberkommissar Beil, (fnu), commanding officer of 4th Kommando.

14. The 6th VP Bereitschaft was equipped with four T-34 tanks with 76.2-mm guns, six self-propelled 50-mm cannons, 12 model 34 machine guns, 60 models 42 and 44 submachine guns, 250 model 98-K carbines, and 50 pistols. Sealed boxes stored in the basement of the installation contained new weapons from the U.S.S.R., especially machine guns and assault carbines, which had been issued to the unit by the central supply depot in Berlin. The Bereitschaft was also equipped with 12 to 15 trucks and passenger cars and 8 armored ammunition carriers.

2d VP Bereitschaft (Inf) in Land Brandenburg

15. Until 17 September 1950, the 2d VP Bereitschaft (Inf) was located in the former prisoner camp near the rolling mill in Kirchmooser. The unit numbered about 1,000 police and was organized into a headquarters, three Kommandos, and one Sonderkommando, which was a mortar unit.
16. The officers at the headquarters of the 2d VP Bereitschaft were VP-Oberrat Knueppel, (fnu), commanding officer, a former career officer; VP-Oberrat Jaeger, (fnu), PK officer; VP-Oberrat Shukov, (fnu), Soviet liaison officer; VP-Rat Koenig, (fnu), operations officer, former officer; VP-Rat Leischke, (fnu), administrative officer; VP-Oberkommissar Rosner, (fnu), liaison officer to the HVA; and a veteran of the Spanish Civil War; VP-Kommissar Rothe, (fnu), personnel officer; VP-Kommissar Floeter, (fnu), adjutant; and VP-Kommissar Schubert, (fnu), propaganda officer.
17. The German weapons of the unit were in bad condition or even unserviceable. About the end of August 1950, the unit was issued Soviet machine guns, rifles, and submachine guns, with which officers were already being trained.
18. In mid-July 1950, the 2d VP Bereitschaft was inspected by Soviet Major General Kuruenko, or Kurinko, (fnu), who allegedly belonged to the GONG, Potsdam, and was the inspector-general for the tactical training of the Volkspolizei. After reviewing the unit in a defense and an attack exercise, the general ordered a change in training from German to Soviet tactical doctrines. During instruction of the personnel of the Bereitschaft it was pointed out that the principal mission of the VP Bereitschaften was the training of NGOs and officers for the future people's army.

5th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) in Land Brandenburg

19. In October 1950, the 5th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) was located in the former transient camp for refugees in Kuechensee, about 1 km west of Storkow. The unit numbered about 1,500 police and was organized into three Kommandos and one Sonderkommando, which was a signal unit.
20. The key officers of the 5th VP Bereitschaft were VP-Oberrat Kapels, (fnu), commanding officer; VP-Oberrat Thuerhauf, (fnu), administrative officer; VP-Rat Maluschke, (fnu), director of training; and VP-Oberkommissar Bartels, (fnu), PK-officer.

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VP School (Armd) in Priemerwald, Land Mecklenburg

21. In August and September 1950, a VP school (Armd), was located in the former German ammunition depot in Priemerwald near Guestrow. The school had a personnel strength of 1,200 to 1,500 men and was organized into a headquarters and 10 companies.
22. The officers on the school staff included VP-Inspekteur Kollitsch, (fnu), school commandant; VP-Kommandeur Beckmann, (fnu), chief of the staff of instructors; VP-Kommandeur Schaefer, (fnu), a former lieutenant colonel, in charge of armored training; VP-Oberrat Barh, (fnu), personnel officer; and VP-Rat Carelius, (fnu), PK officer.
23. The school was equipped with four or five T-34 tanks, six light armored scout cars, five or six armored ammunition carriers and sufficient small arms to equip about one-third of the personnel.

VP Officers' School in Prora, Land Mecklenburg

24. Prior to 31 August 1950, a VP officers' school was stationed in the former RAD (Reich Labor Service) Camp which was located near Prora in the direction of Bergen. The school had a personnel strength of 1,400 men, and was organized into the school headquarters and 10 companies.
25. The officers on the school staff included VP-Inspekteur Krueger, (fnu), school commandant, former officer; VP-Inspekteur Stkowski, (fnu), chief of staff; VP-Kommandeur Kalisch, (fnu), PK officer; VP-Kommandeur Harnisch, (fnu), personnel officer; VP-Oberrat Ludwig, (fnu), director of training; and VP-Oberrat Konzilla, (fnu), administrative officer.
26. The equipment of the school included seven heavy mortars, seven light mortars and infantry small arms to equip about five companies. *

* Comment. Forwarded as general background information since the dates of information are prior to the discharges and turn-over of personnel which have been observed with VP units and schools since mid-November 1950.

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